## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

PRADEEP MAHAPATRA, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02515-DAB

Plaintiff,

**CLASS ACTION** 

**CLASS ACTION** 

VS.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02544-DAB

ROBERT M. HODGE, Individually and on Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02556-DAB

THOMAS MARKEY, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

**CLASS ACTION** 

VS.

VS.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

[Caption continued on following page.]

MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION OF JOHN THAYER FOR CONSOLIDATION, APPOINTMENT AS LEAD PLAINTIFF AND APPROVAL OF SELECTION OF LEAD COUNSEL

JOEL A. HOFFLICH, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated,

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02610-DAB

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Plaintiff,

**CLASS ACTION** 

vs.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

and All Others Similarly Situated,

CARLTON COWIE, On Behalf of Himself

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02611-DAB

Plaintiff,

VS.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02639-DAB

FUCHSBERG INVESTMENT PARTNERS, On Behalf of Itself and All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

[Caption continued on following page.]

**CLASS ACTION** 

**CLASS ACTION** 

TAMY DEE THOMPSON, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02640-DAB

Plaintiff,

**CLASS ACTION** 

**CLASS ACTION** 

**CLASS ACTION** 

vs.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02654-DAB

Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

HAI RONG YANG, Individually and on

Plaintiff,

vs.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02885-DAB

HARRY POGASH, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

[Caption continued on following page.]

 $\mathbf{X}$ 

SIDNEY and ELAINE GLICK, Individually : and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, :

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-03007-DAB

Plaintiffs,

**CLASS ACTION** 

vs.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

MICHAEL D. COOPER, JR., Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

FUQI INTERNATIONAL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-03024-DAB

**CLASS ACTION** 

I.

# Presently pending before this Court are at least eleven-related securities class action lawsuits (the "Actions") brought on behalf of all those who purchased or otherwise acquired Fuqi International, Inc. ("Fugi" or the "Company") securities between May 15, 2009 and March 17, 2010, inclusive (the "Class Period"), including all purchases made pursuant and/or traceable to Fuqi's registered secondary public offering of common stock, which closed on or about August 5, 2009 (the "Secondary Offering"), and alleging violations of Sections 11, 12(a)(2) and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") and Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

Class member John Thayer ("Thayer") hereby moves this Court for an order to: (i) consolidate the Actions; (ii) appoint Mr. Thaver as Lead Plaintiff in the Actions under Section 27 of the Securities Act and Section 21D of the Exchange Act; and (iii) approve Mr. Thayer's selection of the law firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP ("Robbins Geller") to serve as Lead Counsel.

("PSLRA") (15 U.S.C. §78(j)(b) and 78(t)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder (17 C.F.R.

This motion is made on the grounds that Mr. Thayer is the most adequate plaintiff, as defined by the PSLRA. Mr. Thayer suffered losses of \$259,945.95 in connection with his purchases of Fugi securities during the Class Period. See Rosenfeld Decl., Ex. B<sup>2</sup>. In addition, Mr. Thaver, for the purposes of this motion, adequately satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of

§240.10b-5).

On March 31, 2010, Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP changed its name to Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP.

References to the "Rosenfeld Decl., Ex. \_\_" are to the exhibits attached to the accompanying Declaration of David A. Rosenfeld, dated May 18, 2010 and submitted herewith.

Civil Procedure in that his claims are typical of the claims of the putative Class and that he will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class.

### II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Fuqi is headquartered in Shenzhen, China and describes itself as a leading designer, producer and seller of high quality precious metal jewelry in China.

The Actions allege that, throughout the Class Period, defendants failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's true financial condition, business and prospects. Specifically, the Actions allege that defendants failed to disclose: (i) that the Company's financial results were artificially inflated due to Fuqi's material misstatement of its inventory and cost of sales; (ii) that the Company's internal and disclosure controls with respect to its inventory and cost of sales were materially deficient; (iii) that, as a result of the foregoing, Fuqi's financial statements were not fairly presented in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and were materially false and misleading; and (iv) that, based on the foregoing, defendants lacked a reasonable basis for their positive statements about the Company, its prospects and growth.

In addition, the Prospectus issued by the Company in connection with the Secondary Offering contained, and incorporated by reference therein, materially false and misleading statements relating to Fuqi's cost of sales, gross profit and net income for the quarter ended March 31, 2009.

On March 16, 2010, Fuqi issued a press release announcing its preliminary financial results for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2009, and a delay in the filing of its Annual Report on Form 10-K. In response to these statements, on the next trading day, shares of the Company's stock fell more than 37%, to close at \$11.90 per share, on approximately 20 times its normal trading volume.

#### III. ARGUMENT

## A. The Actions Should Be Consolidated For All Purposes

The Actions each assert class claims on behalf of the purchasers of certain of Fuqi securities for alleged violations of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act during the Class Period. The Actions name the same defendants and involve the same factual and legal issues. They are each brought by investors who purchased Fuqi securities during the Class Period in reliance on the integrity of the market for such securities and were injured by the fraud on the market that was perpetrated through the issuance of materially false and misleading statements and concealment of material information, thus artificially inflating the prices of Fuqi securities at all relevant times. Consolidation is appropriate where there are actions involving common questions of law or fact. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a). *See Johnson v. Celotex Corp.*, 899 F.2d 1281, 1284 (2d Cir. 1990). That test is met here and, accordingly, the Actions should be consolidated.

# B. Mr. Thayer Should Be Appointed Lead Plaintiff

## 1. The Procedure Required By the PSLRA

The PSLRA has established a procedure that governs the appointment of a lead plaintiff in "each private action arising under the [Exchange Act] that is brought as a plaintiff class action pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure." 15 U.S.C. §§78u-4(a)(1) and (a)(3)(B)(i).

First, the plaintiff who files the initial action must publish a notice to the class, within 20 days of filing the action, informing class members of their right to file a motion for appointment as lead plaintiff. See 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i). Plaintiff in the action entitled Robert M. Hodge v. Fuqi International, Inc., et al., Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-02544-DAB, caused notice regarding the pendency of the Actions to be published on Business Wire, a national, business-oriented newswire service, on March 19, 2010. See Rosenfeld Decl., Ex. A. Within 60 days after publication of the notice, any person or group of persons who are members of the proposed class may apply to the

Court to be appointed as lead plaintiff, whether or not they have previously filed a complaint in the action. *See* 15 U.S.C. §§78u-4(a)(3)(A) and (B).

Second, the PSLRA provides that, within 90 days after publication of the notice, the Court shall consider any motion made by a class member and shall appoint as lead plaintiff the member or members of the class that the Court determines to be most capable of adequately representing the interests of class members. *See* 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B). In determining the "most adequate plaintiff," the PSLRA provides that:

- [T]he court shall adopt a presumption that the most adequate plaintiff in any private action arising under this Act is the person or group of persons that –
- (aa) has either filed the complaint or made a motion in response to a notice...
- (bb) in the determination of the court, has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class; and
- (cc) otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii). See generally Greebel v. FTP Software, 939 F. Supp. 57, 64 (D. Mass. 1996).

- 2. Mr. Thayer Satisfies the "Lead Plaintiff" Requirements of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act
  - a. Mr. Thayer Has Complied With the Securities Act and the Exchange Act and Should Be Appointed Lead Plaintiff

The time period in which Class members may move to be appointed Lead Plaintiff herein under 15 U.S.C. §§78u-4(a)(3)(A) and (B) expires on May 18, 2010. Pursuant to the provisions of the PSLRA and within the requisite time frame after publication of the required notice (published on March 19, 2010), Mr. Thayer timely moves this Court to be appointed Lead Plaintiff on behalf of all members of the Class.

Mr. Thayer has duly signed and filed a certification stating that he is willing to serve as the representative party on behalf of the Class. *See* Rosenfeld Decl., Ex. C. In addition, Mr. Thayer has selected and retained competent counsel to represent himself and the Class. *See* Rosenfeld Decl., Ex. D. Accordingly, Mr. Thayer has satisfied the individual requirements of 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B) and is entitled to have his application for appointment as Lead Plaintiff and selection of Lead Counsel as set forth herein, considered and approved by the Court.

# b. Mr. Thayer Has the Requisite Financial Interest in the Relief Sought By the Class

During the Class Period, as evidenced by, among other things, the accompanying signed certification, *see* Rosenfeld Decl., Ex. C., Mr. Thayer purchased Fuqi securities in reliance upon the materially false and misleading statements issued by defendants and was injured thereby. In addition, Mr. Thayer incurred a substantial \$259,945.95 loss on his transactions in Fuqi securities. Mr. Thayer thus has a significant financial interest in this case. Therefore, Mr. Thayer satisfies all of the PSLRA's prerequisites for appointment as Lead Plaintiff in the Actions and should be appointed Lead Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B).

#### c. Mr. Thayer Otherwise Satisfies Rule 23

According to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B), in addition to possessing the largest financial interest in the outcome of the litigation, the lead plaintiff must also "otherwise satisf[y] the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure." Rule 23(a) provides that a party may serve as a class representative only if the following four requirements are satisfied: (1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the class; (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class; and (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

Of the four prerequisites to class certification, only two – typicality and adequacy – directly address the personal characteristics of the class representative. Consequently, in deciding a motion to serve as lead plaintiff, the Court should limit its inquiry to the typicality and adequacy prongs of Rule 23(a), and defer examination of the remaining requirements until the lead plaintiff moves for class certification. *See Lax v. First Merchs. Acceptance Corp.*, No 97 C 2715, 1997 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11866, at \*20, (N.D. Ill. Aug. 11, 1997). Mr. Thayer satisfies both the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23, thereby justifying his appointment as Lead Plaintiff.

Under Rule 23(a)(3), the claims or defenses of the representative parties must be typical of those of the class. Typicality exists where the plaintiffs' claims arise from the same series of events and are based on the same legal theories as the claims of all the class members. *See Rossini v. Ogilvy & Mather, Inc.*, 798 F.2d 590, 598 (2d Cir. 1986). Typicality does not require that there be no factual differences between the class representatives and the class members because it is the generalized nature of the claims asserted which determines whether the class representatives are typical. *See Sofran v. Labranche & Co.*, 220 F.R.D. 398, 402 (S.D.N.Y. 2004) ("The possibility of factual distinctions between the claims of the named plaintiffs and those of other class members does not destroy typicality, as similarity of legal theory may control even in the face of differences of fact.") (quoting *In re Prudential Secs., Inc. Ltd. P'ships Litig.*, 163 F.R.D. 200, 208 (S.D.N.Y. 1995)). The requirement that the proposed class representatives' claims be typical of the claims of the class does not mean, however, that the claims must be identical. *See Ferrari v. Impath, Inc.*, No. 03 Civ. 5667 (DAB), 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13898, at \*18 (S.D.N.Y. July 20, 2004).

Mr. Thayer satisfies this requirement because, just like all other Class members, he: (1) purchased Fuqi securities during the Class Period; (2) purchased Fuqi securities in reliance upon the allegedly materially false and misleading statements issued by defendants; and (3) suffered damages

thereby. Thus, Mr. Thayer's claim is typical of those of other Class members since his claim and the claims of other Class members arise out of the same course of events.

Under Rule 23(a)(4) the representative parties must also "fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class." The PSLRA directs this Court to limit its inquiry regarding the adequacy of Mr. Thayer to represent the Class to the existence of any conflicts between the interests of Mr. Thayer and the members of the Class. The Court must evaluate adequacy of representation by considering: (i) whether the Class representatives' claims conflict with those of the Class; and (ii) whether Class counsel is qualified, experienced, and generally able to conduct the litigation. *See In re Global Crossing Sec. & ERISA Litig.*, 225 F.R.D. 436, 453 (S.D.N.Y. 2004) (citation omitted).

Here, Mr. Thayer is an adequate representative of the Class. As evidenced by the injuries suffered by Mr. Thayer, who purchased Fuqi securities at prices allegedly artificially inflated by defendants' materially false and misleading statements, the interests of Mr. Thayer are clearly aligned with the members of the Class, and there is no evidence of any antagonism between Mr. Thayer's interest and those of the other members of the Class. Further, Mr. Thayer has taken significant steps which demonstrate that he will protect the interests of the Class: he has retained competent and experienced counsel to prosecute these claims. In addition, as shown below, Mr. Thayer's proposed Lead Counsel are highly qualified, experienced and able to conduct this complex litigation in a professional manner. Thus, Mr. Thayer *prima facie* satisfies the commonality, typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23 for the purposes of this motion.

#### C. The Court Should Approve Mr. Thayer's Choice of Counsel

Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v), the proposed lead plaintiff shall, subject to Court approval, select and retain counsel to represent the class he seeks to represent. In that regard, Mr. Thayer has selected the law firm of Robbins Geller as Lead Counsel, a firm which has substantial

experience in the prosecution of shareholder and securities class actions, including serving as lead counsel in *In re Enron Corp. Securities Litigation*, No. H-01-3624 (S.D. Tex.), in which Robbins Geller attained the largest recovery ever obtained in a shareholder class action. *See* Rosenfeld Decl., Ex. D. Specifically, the court in *Enron* stated:

The firm is comprised of probably the most prominent securities class action attorneys in the country. It is not surprising that Defendants have not argued that counsel is not adequate. Counsel's conduct in zealously and efficiently prosecuting this litigation with commitment of substantial resources to that goal evidences those qualities is evident throughout this suit.

In re Enron Corp. Sec. Derivative & "ERISA" Litig., 529 F. Supp. 2d 644, 675 (S.D. Tex. 2006).

Accordingly, the Court should approve Mr. Thayer's selection of counsel.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Mr. Thayer respectfully requests that the Court: (i) consolidate the Actions; (ii) appoint Mr. Thayer as Lead Plaintiff in the Actions; (iii) approve his selection of Lead Counsel as set forth herein; and (iv) grant such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: May 18, 2010

ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN
& DOWD LLP
SAMUEL H. RUDMAN
DAVID A. ROSENFELD
MARIO ALBA JR.

/s/ David A. Rosenfeld
DAVID A. ROSENFELD

58 South Service Road, Suite 200 Melville, NY 11747 Telephone: 631/367-7100 631/367-1173 (fax)

[Proposed] Lead Counsel for Plaintiffs

ROY JACOBS & ASSOCIATES ROY L. JACOBS, ESQ. 60 East 42nd Street 46th Floor New York, NY 10165 Telephone: 212/867-1156 212-504-8343 (fax)

Additional Counsel for Plaintiffs

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, David A. Rosenfeld, hereby certify that on May 18, 2010, I caused a true and correct copy of the attached:

Notice of Motion for Consolidation, Appointment as Lead Plaintiff and Approval of Selection of Lead Counsel;

Memorandum in Support of the Motion of John Thayer for Consolidation, Appointment as Lead Plaintiff and Approval of Selection of Lead Counsel; and

Declaration of David A. Rosenfeld in Support of the Motion of John Thayser for Consolidation, Appointment as Lead Plaintiff and Approval of Selection of Lead Counsel,

to be served: (i) electronically on all counsel registered for electronic service for this case; and (ii) by first-class mail to any additional counsel.

/s/ David A. Rosenfeld
DAVID A. ROSENFELD

#### FUQI INT'L

Service List - 5/17/2010 (10-0047)

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## **Counsel For Defendant(s)**

Kenneth A. Lapatine Adam D. Cole Greenberg Traurig, LLP MetLife Building, 200 Park Avenue New York, NY 10166 212/801-9200 212/801-6400 (Fax)

# **Counsel For Plaintiff(s)**

Karin E. Fisch
Abbey Spanier Rodd & Abrams, LLP
212 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016
212/889-3700
212/684-5191 (Fax)

Antonio Vozzolo Richard Schwartz Faruqi & Faruqi, LLP 369 Lexington Avenue, 10th Floor New York, NY 10017-6531 212/983-9330 212/983-9331 (Fax)

Lionel Z. Glancy Michael Goldberg Glancy Binkow & Goldberg LLP 1801 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 311 Los Angeles, CA 90067 310/201-9150 310/201-9160 (Fax) D. Seamus Kaskela
David M. Promisloff
Steven D. Resnick
Barroway Topaz Kessler Meltzer & Check, LLP
280 King of Prussia Road
Radnor, PA 19087
610/667-7706
610/667-7056 (Fax)

Jacob A. Goldberg
Faruqi & Faruqi, LLP
101 Greenwood Avenue, Suite 600
Jenkintown, PA 19046
215/277-5770
215/277-5771 (Fax)

David J. Jaroslawicz Jaroslawicz & Jaros 225 Broadway, 24th Floor New York, NY 10007 212/227-2780 212/227-5030(Fax) FUQI INT'L

Service List - 5/17/2010 (10-0047)

Page 2 of 4

Frederic S. Fox

Donald R. Hall

Jeffrey P. Campisi

Kaplan, Fox & Kilsheimer LLP

850 Third Avenue, 14th Floor

New York, NY 10022

212/687-1980

212/687-7714(Fax)

David S. Preminger

Keller Rohrback LLP

770 Broadway, Second Floor

New York, NY 10003

646/495-6198

646/495-6197(Fax)

Deborah R. Gross

Robert P. Frutkin

Law Offices Bernard M. Gross, P.C.

100 Penn Square East, Suite 450

Wanamaker Bldg.

Philadelphia, PA 19107

215/561-3600

215/561-3000 (Fax)

Howard G. Smith

Law Offices of Howard G. Smith

3070 Bristol Pike, Suite 112

Bensalem, PA 19020

215/638-4847

215/638-4867 (Fax)

Lynn Lincoln Sarko

Juli E. Farris

Elizabeth A. Leland

Keller Rohrback LLP

1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3200

Seattle, WA 98101-3052

206/623-1900

206/623-3384(Fax)

Joe Kendall

Hamilton P. Lindley

Kendall Law Group, LLP

3232 McKinney Avenue, Suite 700

Dallas, TX 75204

214/744-3000

214/744-3015 (Fax)

Curtis V. Trinko

Wai K. Chan

Law Offices of Curtis V. Trinko LLP

16 West 46th Street, Seventh Floor

New York, NY 10036

212/490-9550

212/986-0158(Fax)

Kenneth A. Elan

Law Offices of Kenneth A. Elan

217 Broadway, Suite 606

New York, NY 10007

212/619-0261

212/385-2707 (Fax)

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Service List - 5/17/2010 (10-0047)

Page 3 of 4

Marvin L. Frank

Brian P. Murray

Murray, Frank & Sailer LLP

275 Madison Avenue, Suite 801

New York, NY 10016

212/682-1818

212/682-1892(Fax)

Mark I. Gross

Fei-Lu Qian

Pomerantz Haudek Block Grossman & Gross

LLP

100 Park Avenue, 26th Floor

New York, NY 10017-5516

212/661-1100

212/661-8665 (Fax)

Brian D. Long

Rigrodsky & Long, P.A.

919 North Market Street, Suite 980

Wilmington, DE 19801

302/295-5310

302/654-7530(Fax)

Roy L. Jacobs

Roy Jacobs & Associates

60 East 42nd Street, 46th Floor

New York, NY 10165

212/867-1156

212/504-8343(Fax)

Patrick V. Dahlstrom

Pomerantz Haudek Block Grossman & Gross

LLP

10 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1000

Chicago, IL 60603

312/377-1181

312/377-1184(Fax)

Seth D. Rigrodsky

Timothy J. MacFall

Rigrodsky & Long, P.A.

585 Stewart Avenue, Suite 304

Garden City, NY 11530

516/683-3516

Samuel H. Rudman

David A. Rosenfeld

Mario Alba Jr.

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP

58 South Service Road, Suite 200

Melville, NY 11747

631/367-7100

631/367-1173(Fax)

Jeffrey P. Harris

Elizabeth L. Hutton

Melinda S. Nenning

Statman Harris & Eyrich, LLC

441 Vine Street, Suite 3700

Cincinnati, OH 45202

513/621-2666

513/621-4896 (Fax)

FUQI INT'L Service List - 5/17/2010 (10-0047) Page 4 of 4

Jules Brody Stull, Stull & Brody 6 East 45th Street, 4th Floor New York, NY 10017 212/687-7230 212/490-2022(Fax) Joseph H. Weiss Mark D. Smilow Weiss & Lurie 551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600 New York, NY 10176 212/682-3025 212/682-3010(Fax)